

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—ITALIAN OPERA—  
MATHIA.NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—MERRY WIVES OF WIND-  
SOR.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—NAID QUEEN.—TOODLES.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway.—LONDON  
AMUSEMENTS.LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—OUR AMERICAN  
COUNTRY.NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—BLACKBERRY  
ALBION.—JACK, THE NEWBORN.—JACQUES STROP.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL  
CHURCH.—ALBION'S SONGS, DANCES, &c.HAINES'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Day and  
Evening.—ORPHEUS.—HISTORICAL WARRIORS, AND OTHER  
COMICITIES.BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broad-  
way.—WID STIRCK BILLY PATTERSON.MOORE'S MINSTRELS, Metropolitan Institute, No. 639  
Broadway.—ORPHEUS SONGS, DANCES, &c.MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Broadway.—  
SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MATHIA, THE NIGHT OWL.CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 333 Broadway.—SONGS,  
DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—MATHIA, THE NIGHT OWL.GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING  
ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLET, PANTOMIME, FARCES, &c.AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—SONGS, BAL-  
LETS, PANTOMIME, &c.—PORTAIT L'AMER.CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—  
BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—FLAUNAU AT THE FAIR.PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.—  
OPEN ONLY FROM 10 A. M. TO 10 P. M.NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—BURLESQUES  
SONGS, DANCES, &c.

New York, Wednesday, January 29, 1862.

## THE SITUATION.

The official report of General Burnside, in refer-  
ence to the progress of and disaster to the ex-  
pedition under his command, and which was brought  
to Washington by a special messenger, Mr. Shel-  
don, has reached us, and is published in this day's  
HERALD. It appears, from that and Mr. Sheldon's  
statement, that although a number of vessels  
grounded and struck on the bar, only two were  
lost, the others having been gotten off without  
serious damage. Only one transport was lost—  
viz: the New York—and it appears that all  
on board were saved. Her cargo, unfortunately,  
was lost, and although valuable,  
was not worth half so much as that destroyed  
in the rebel privateer Calhoun. A gun-  
boat, or rather floating battery of two guns,  
was staved in by the anchor and sank in shallow  
water; but as her cargo was all saved, her loss is  
not very material and can be soon replaced. The  
health of the troops is excellent, and confidence is  
expressed by them in their leader, who is reported  
working night and day. It is expected that an ad-  
vance will shortly be made, as everything will soon  
be ready for that purpose.The steamer New York, reported lost on Hat-  
teras bar, is not the City of New York, as stated in  
the evening papers, for that vessel is now on its  
way to this port from England, via Halifax—at  
least it was so reported in the same papers a few  
days since. The New York is not "a new ship,"  
nor was she "built by Laird & McGregor, of Glas-  
gow, for the Liverpool, New York and Philadelphia  
Steamship Company." She was not "of iron,  
2,560 tons burthen, three hundred and fifty feet  
long, fifty feet in breadth, and twenty-seven feet  
six inches deep," for if she had been the govern-  
ment would certainly have been very foolish to  
have purchased her for the Burnside expedition,  
which some of the evening papers reported was  
bound for Pamlico Sound, via Hatteras Inlet, be-  
cause no vessel drawing that depth of water could  
possibly have passed over the bar in the finest weath-  
er. She was not "divided with six water-tight  
compartments, nor strengthened with steel bars." She  
did not make "her trial trip on the 2d of Oc-  
tober last," nor was she afterwards "purchased  
for the Burnside expedition." What she really was,  
and all about her, can be found in our news  
columns, in company with descriptions of the  
other vessels, and lists and sketches of the officers  
of the troops supposed to be on board.During yesterday afternoon it was posted on  
several of the bulletins around the city that the  
news of the disaster had been suppressed by order  
of the government. Such, however, was not the  
case. The real facts were that, the general ac-  
count received over the wires being somewhat ex-  
aggerated, the government requested that its pub-  
lication might be suspended until the official  
report, which was then in active preparation  
and ordered to be immediately published.  
should have an opportunity to reach the  
public side by side with the exaggerated  
statement, thus giving the friends of the troops on  
the expedition the opportunity to judge of the  
truth of both or either, and also to save them from  
any unnecessary alarm. The troops are all saved  
with the exception of Colonel Allen and Surgeon  
Weller, of the Ninth New Jersey Volunteers, who  
were drowned, with the mate of the Ann E. Thomp-  
son, in consequence of their leaving that vessel in  
a small boat during the storm, the boat being cap-  
sized by the rough sea. The brave fellows lost  
their lives in a worthy attempt to reach the ship of  
the officer in command, for the purpose of obtain-  
ing water for their distressed companions.Sketches of Col. Allen and Surgeon Weller are  
published in this day's HERALD, and will be found  
very interesting. They have not fallen in battle;  
but they perished in a noble cause, and are quite  
as worthy of honor.In the House of Representatives yesterday, the  
bill to issue United States notes, &c., was taken  
up, it being the special order of the day. Mr.  
Spaulding, while explaining the bill, said that the  
Secretary of the Treasury has acted in strict con-  
formity with the law, and borrowed money at the  
rate authorized by act of Congress. He has bor-  
rowed one hundred millions of dollars at seven and  
three-tenths per cent, and issued six per cent bonds  
for fifty millions, for which he has received not quite  
forty-five millions. The Secretary of the Treasury  
has acted in good faith, and should be sustained.  
This was a war measure—one of necessity, not of  
choice. The public debt on the 15th of January  
was three hundred and sixty millions seven hun-  
dred and sixty-four thousand dollars. Up to next  
July it will be six hundred and fifty millions; and  
if the war continues until July, 1863, the es-  
timated debt will be twelve hundred millions of  
dollars, including the floating debt. He argued that  
under the constitution the power of taxation on realand personal property was unlimited, and it is this  
property which will form the basis of the notes  
proposed to be issued. With ample taxation these  
will be the very best medium, because the  
whole property of the country will be held for  
their redemption. He argued in favor of the con-  
stitutional power to issue demand notes, and  
make them a legal tender in the payment of debts.  
In conclusion he said that he had an abiding faith  
in the determination of the people to maintain the  
government. An early and successful advance of  
the army was of the utmost importance, and the  
passage of this bill was needed to sustain the  
financial credit of the country, to prevent foreign  
intervention and to vindicate the invincibility of  
our forces, who are anxious to be led on to victory.From the Upper Potomac we learn that Dam  
No. 5 has given way under the pressure of the  
waters at those points where the rebels had weak-  
ened it. Other damages have taken place above,  
and at Dam No. 4, and between Dam No. 6 and  
Hancock, a further break has taken place. The  
canal has thus been rendered useless for the present,  
and the repair of the damages will take  
several days to accomplish, and are estimated to  
cost between twelve and fifteen thousand dollars.From Cairo via Chicago the tidings are very im-  
portant. It is reported that the rebel chieftain  
Jeff. Thompson has been captured, and that three  
Tennessee regiments have been intercepted on  
their march to Sykestown.Seven of the bridge burners in Missouri have  
been sentenced to be shot, and the sentence has  
been approved of by General Halleck.From rebel sources intelligence has reached us  
of the chasing of the rebel privateer Calhoun,  
while on her way from Havana to Charleston, by  
one of our fleet, and the news goes on further to  
state that the rebels abandoned and burned her to  
prevent her falling into our hands. The Calhoun  
was a side-wheel steamer of 1,058 tons burthen,  
and was built in this city in 1851. She was 175  
feet in length, 27 feet in breadth and 11 feet deep.  
She was formerly engaged in the trade between  
this city and Southern ports, and was one  
of the vessels seized by the rebels at the  
commencement of the rebellion and trans-  
ferred into a vessel-of-war. She was considered  
as a moderately good vessel, and bore the flag  
of the notorious Captain Hollins during his memora-  
ble attack upon the blockading fleet off New Or-  
leans. Her armament consisted of one twenty-  
four pounder and two eighteen pounder Dahlgren  
guns.From the same sources it was reported that after  
the retreat (query, rout) from Somerset, the rebels  
rallied at Monticello, where they intended to make  
a firm stand. Instead of this being the case, Mon-  
ticello is now in the possession of the Union troops  
under General Schoepff. Where General Crittenden  
(the rebel) has gone to, or where his forces are,  
no one can yet tell; but if they are to be  
found anywhere, General Carter's Union Tennesseeans  
will do it.An important change has taken place among  
the chiefs of the rebel army. General Beauregard  
has been transferred to Columbus, Ky., and General  
Gustavus W. Smith (well known in New York)  
is to take charge of the army of the Potomac.  
General Beauregard is to act under General A.  
Sydney Johnston, who could not make any impres-  
sion on the forces under General Reynolds at Cheat  
Mountain, and who is not at all likely to be more  
successful against General Buell. General Beau-  
regard is now placed opposite General Halleck,  
who is ably assisted in this particular locality by  
General Grant.The news of the capture of Cedar Keys by our  
forces has been more than confirmed by the intel-  
ligence just received from the South.We publish in to-day's HERALD another inter-  
esting selection of news from Southern papers, the  
most interesting part of which is a letter written  
to the Richmond Enquirer, from a gentleman who  
has lately returned to Virginia from Europe. He  
says that the general expectations entertained by  
the rebels when he left the South last summer,  
to the effect that manufacturing interests of Eng-  
land and France would force them to a speedy re-  
cognition of the Southern confederacy has turned  
out to be a great error. He was the bearer of  
messages from commercial men in the South to  
English merchants in reference to opening a trade  
with the South, regardless of the federal block-  
ade. When he told the latter of one hundred per  
cent profits they said:—"Give us ten per cent, or  
even five, with no risk, and we are your men."The rebel fallacy in reference to speedy recog-  
nition and interference with the blockade was  
prominently apparent in England.The rebel agents in Europe had been tampering  
with English editors, in order to force public  
opinion to an acknowledgement of the necessity  
for a rebel confederacy.Sixteen thousand square feet have been secured  
in the agricultural department of the Great Inter-  
national Exhibition in London this year. The  
correspondent of the Enquirer says "he was obliged  
to secure the allotment of space in his own indi-  
vidual name, but it was done for and in behalf  
of the confederacy."

## CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, a petition was pre-  
sented from citizens of Illinois, asking Congress not  
to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and  
to expel members who are in favor of such an act;  
also, that John C. Fremont may be deprived of his  
title of General, and that his frauds in the Western  
Military Department be exposed. A petition from  
New York merchants, in favor of restoring the  
warehousing system, was also presented. The  
Secretary of the Treasury was requested to report  
whether any legislation is necessary to enable the  
government to take charge of and place under  
cultivation the lands in South Carolina now held  
by the United States, and also what legislation  
is necessary to provide for the negroes in those  
localities, and to furnish them with proper  
employment. Mr. Wilson reported a bill from  
the Military Committee to define the pay and  
equalize the emoluments of certain officers of the  
army and for other purposes. The bill reduces  
the expenditures on account of the army fifteen  
millions of dollars. It provides for a deduction of  
ten per cent from the pay of all persons in the  
employ of the government. So far as regards the  
pay of the soldiers and sailors, the proposed reduc-  
tion of their compensation is unwise as well as un-  
just. A bill to provide for the revision and con-  
solidation of the statutes of the United States was  
referred to the appropriate committee. The bill  
authorizing the President to take possession ofcertain railroads and telegraph lines was taken up,  
and after an animated discussion passed by a vote  
of 23 against 12.The House of Representatives went into Com-  
mittee of the Whole, and the special order, being  
the bill to authorize the issue of United States de-  
mand notes, and for the redemption or funding  
thereof, and for the funding of the floating debt of  
the United States, was taken up. Mr. Spaulding,  
of the Committee of Ways and Means, explained  
its provisions. A full report of his speech on this  
important subject is given in our Congressional  
proceedings. Mr. Stevens stated that he should  
offer an amendment to the bill, to make the  
semi-annual interest payable in coin. The fur-  
ther consideration of the subject was then pos-  
tponed until to-day. A bill establishing a uni-  
form system of bankruptcy was introduced, and  
referred to the special committee on that subject.  
Mr. Potter made a report on the subject of disloyal  
government employees, and its consideration was  
postponed for two weeks. The House then took  
up the bill making appropriations for the executive,  
legislative and judicial expenses of the govern-  
ment, and several amendments. Adjourned.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

In the State Senate yesterday, the resolution for  
the appointment of three commissioners to draft a  
general tax bill, with the view of rendering the  
operations of national and State taxes equal and  
fair upon all interests, was debated, and after-  
wards laid on the table and ordered to be printed.  
The Senate passed the annual Canal Appropriation  
bill, and the bill to amend the law relative to un-  
authorized banking. The bill amending the Brook-  
lyn Common School law was ordered to a third  
reading. Favorable reports were made on the bill  
amending the General Manufacturing law, and on  
that amending the Revised Statutes so as to effect  
judgments in cases of ejectment. Bills were intro-  
duced to amend the Divorce law; to prevent and  
punish fraud in the use of false stamps and trade  
marks, and in relation to sales by the Commission-  
ers of the United States Land Fund. A report was  
sent in by the Canal Auditor, giving a statement of  
the canal awards and the amounts paid. In the As-  
sembly the Governor's annual message was taken  
up, and the various topics referred to the appropriate  
committees. A discussion took place over the refer-  
ence of that portion of the message relating to the  
Metropolitan Police, and it was finally sent to the  
Cities Committee. The following bills were  
ordered to a third reading:—To amend the Annual  
Appropriation law in reference to lands sold for  
taxes; to authorize the Kings county Supervisors  
to raise money for the support of volunteers' fami-  
lies; in relation to warrants issued against default-  
ing county collectors, and to amend the charter of  
the Republic Fire Insurance Company. The resolu-  
tions in regard to finance and the national taxes  
were again discussed at considerable length, and  
finally laid over as the special order for to-morrow  
(Thursday) evening.The steamship City of New York, from Liver-  
pool and Queenstown via Halifax, was fully de-  
laid last night, and may have arrived before this  
reaches the eye of the reader. She will leave, on her re-  
turn to Queenstown and Liverpool, on Saturday  
next.The Southern confederacy have ordered that all  
free negroes who do not volunteer shall be im-  
pressed into the public service, and a Petersburg,  
Va., paper congratulates itself that nearly all the  
free negroes in that vicinity have volunteered.  
They have Hobson's choice, to go willingly or be  
forced.From the report of the head of the rebel "pas-  
sage office," it appears that the aggregate amount  
of contributions from the rebel States to the con-  
federate army in Virginia during the last three  
months was \$1,515,898.There are now at Annapolis six regiments of in-  
fantry and three of cavalry, and more troops are  
expected within a few days. Another expedition  
is talked of.The New Orleans Picayune was once the only  
daily paper in the United States, besides the  
HERALD, that ever found it necessary, from a press  
of advertisements, to publish a quadruple sheet.  
It now apparently finds great difficulty in pro-  
ducing a little dirty looking single sheet, with a  
few old standing column doctors' advertisements to  
fill up its columns. Secession did it.A meeting is to be held in Boston to press the  
government to make further efforts to secure the  
release of Colonel Corcoran, who is now confined  
in a cell in the prison at Columbus, S. C.The navy yard difficulties at Philadelphia appear  
to have been settled for the present. There are  
over one thousand five hundred workmen now em-  
ployed there.Nearly all the railroads in New York and the  
Eastern States are blocked up with snow, and the  
progress of the trains has been greatly re-  
tarded in consequence.The trial of Samuel H. Merritt, charged with  
shooting John Swain, the secessionist, was brought  
to a close yesterday in the General Sessions.  
Judge McCunn charged the jury in the afternoon.  
There was no prospect of their agreeing upon a  
verdict at a late hour last evening.The market for cotton exhibited more firmness,  
with an improved demand from spinners. The sales em-  
braced about 700 bales, closing on the basis of 32c. a bale  
for middling uplands, and at 32c. a bale for strict mid-  
dling uplands. Flour was in some better request,  
though sales were moderate, and extra state was rather  
better. Wheat was again inactive, while prices were  
easier. Corn was heavy, and sales limited, at 60c.  
for good mixed in store, and at 55c. for good mixed  
delivered. Pork was sustained, and sales fair at \$12.87 1/2  
a \$15 for new mess, \$12 a \$12 1/2 for old do., \$12 7/8  
for Western, and \$13 25 a \$13 50 for city prime mess,  
and at \$5 25 a \$5 75 for old prime, and at \$2 25 a \$2 50  
for new do. Sugars were steady, with sales of 613 hids.,  
703 boxes and 1,360 bags. Coffee was quiet, but firmly  
held. The stock embraced 64,662 bags of Rio, and a  
total of 94,992 of all kinds. Freight engagements were  
moderate, and rates without change of moment.Important News from the Burnside Ex-  
pedition.Our great suspense is at an end. We have  
the encouraging news at last that the bulk of the  
Burnside expedition had effected a lodgment in  
Pamlico Sound, after buffeting and struggling  
with a succession of the fiercest wintry storms of  
stormy Cape Hatteras. The expedition, how-  
ever, though not defeated, nor very seriously  
crippled by the adverse winds and waves, and the  
treacherous quicksands and shifting bars of  
the North Carolina coast, has still suffered  
in the loss of several valuable vessels. In the  
stranding of the steamer New York, with  
its stores of gunpowder, bombs and rifles, our  
loss is estimated at two hundred thousand dol-  
lars. With this and the various other vessels  
which were wrecked or driven ashore, our total  
loss in ships, horses, powder, arms, shot, shell,  
munitions and provisions will probably not fall  
short of half a million of money.But these expensive casualties are only as a  
drop in the bucket compared with the wonder-  
ful escape of the fleet from total destruction, or  
a ruinous dispersion along the whole Atlantic  
seaboard, or compared with the remarkable  
preservation from a watery grave of the sol-  
diers and sailors of the expedition, even of the  
ships and boats that were lost, with a few un-  
fortunate exceptions. We are thus assured  
that the ships of the squadron, en masse and indetail, were managed with great skill and  
ability by our gallant sailors, and that, after  
having thus proved more than a match for the  
elements, we may expect a good report of the  
movements of the expedition against the rebels  
of North Carolina. At the same time the de-  
tention of the fleet outside of Hatteras by the  
terrible storms of the last two weeks has very  
much embarrassed the rebels as to the where-  
abouts and destination of Burnside; so that, in  
their defensive preparations at various other  
points, it is probable that at the real points of  
attack they will be found weaker than they  
were at the sailing of Burnside from Fortress  
Monroe.The Port Royal expedition, in the same way  
as this one, suffered some losses, and was de-  
tained off the coast near its destination by  
storms until the absence of any news from it  
began to excite very serious apprehensions.  
But it weathered the winds and waves, and  
accomplished its work very handsomely. So it  
will be with this Burnside expedition. Having  
entered the sheltered inland waters of North  
Carolina, it has nothing more to fear from the  
dreadful storms of Hatteras, and will soon be  
ready for active operations, with an over-  
whelming weight of artillery, against the Caro-  
lina strongholds and arteries of this doomed  
rebellion. Burnside, like Dupont, is confident  
of the success of his expedition, and so is the  
government, and so are we, because his means  
are fully adapted to accomplish the objects of  
his enterprise.The rebel armies of the South are in a state of  
great alarm. They begin to have some idea of  
the terrible plans and combinations of General  
McClellan. The suffering and despoiled people  
of the South are becoming weary of the exhaust-  
ing despotism of Davis, with its conscriptions  
and forced contributions, and the desperate  
straits to which it has driven them in conse-  
quence of "Lincoln's blockade." The only  
thing which prevents the utter demoralization  
and dispersion of the rebel armies is the general  
belief in the South, fostered by our abolition  
agitators, that our government is aiming at  
nothing less than a war of conquest, spoliation,  
confiscation and negro emancipation. If Presi-  
dent Lincoln were to seize upon half a dozen  
of such of our abolition disorganizers as Owen  
Lovejoy, the Rev. Dr. Cheever, Lloyd Garrison,  
and that "horrible monster, Greeley," as de-  
scribed by the loyal Senator Davis, of Kentucky,  
and were to clap them into Fort Lafayette or  
Fort Warren, we verily believe that the moral  
effect of this proceeding in the South would  
be equal to an overwhelming victory over the  
main rebel army of the Potomac.Considering the time which had elapsed with-  
out any definite tidings from this Burnside ex-  
pedition, and the numerous tempestuous days  
and nights of this long interval of doubt and  
conjecture, the news we have received affords  
us a great relief from our apprehensions of a  
crushing disaster. The bulk of the expedition  
is now secure against the chances of the ele-  
ments, and will soon manifest its strength in its  
movements upon the enemy.PROPOSED REDUCTION OF THE PAY OF THE  
ARMY AND NAVY.—The most atrocious proposi-  
tion yet presented to Congress is that which is  
designed to reduce the pay of our army and  
navy. The pay seems small enough already,  
when we consider the amount of toil, hardship  
and danger of health, limb and life which our  
soldiers and sailors are compelled to undergo,  
or when we remember that our army and navy  
are doing the real work of saving and preserving  
the Union. How much smaller does it appear,  
then, when contrasted with the salaries of those  
politicians who would cut down the money of a  
soldier or a sailor, but who are themselves paid  
largely to do nothing, and rob the public treas-  
ury into the bargain. If there is any honesty  
or sincerity in this desire for retrenchment,  
let us see the politicians begin by cutting down  
their own salaries, and stopping the Fremont,  
Cummings and Morgan leaks in the Treasury.  
Let the pay of the soldier and sailor alone until  
they begin thus; or, in other words, let it alone  
altogether.RAMPANT TREASON.—BROWNSON AND GREELEY.—  
The fratricidal between these eccentric indi-  
viduals is one of the signs of the times. Brown-  
son, in an anti-slavery lecture at Boston,  
proclaims that "the old Union is irrevocably  
gone," and Greeley "respectfully and altogether  
agrees with Dr. Brownson." This is treason of  
the rank kind. It is aid and comfort to the  
enemy. The sentiments are atrocious, and both  
the traitors ought to be arrested. The old  
Union is not gone. It is for the old Union, and  
no new Union, that our troops are fighting, and  
neither Greeley nor Brownson nor any human  
power can induce them to fight otherwise. We  
want no new Union. We want the old. To  
fight for the old is loyalty. To fight for the  
new is treason. Those who propose to subvert  
the old Union are guilty of the highest crime  
known to the law. Those who say "the old  
Union is gone" are allies and accomplices of  
the Southern traitors, and ought to be looked  
after.HALE'S REPORT.—The report of Senator Hale  
about the Navy Department is the best he has  
ever made, and does him infinite credit. His  
main exposure of corruption strikes for a mul-  
titude of political sins. We always knew he  
was a wit; but the last thing he has said is the  
clearest thing of all. He recommends Mr.  
Morgan to refund the \$70,000 he has netted out  
of the contracts for sound and rotten ships.  
This supposes an amazing amount of moral  
stamina. We hope Mr. Morgan will come up  
to the standard. But the logic of Senator  
Hale's point is, that if Morgan should disgorge  
\$70,000, Secretary Welles should certainly re-  
sign. There is no escaping from the conclusion.SILLY NEWSPAPERS ABOUT GOLD.—Some of the  
stupid journals have been crying "gold, gold,  
gold!" are now coming round to our views, that  
credit is as good as gold, and admit that to pay  
the interest of the proposed war stock in specie  
is sufficient to keep up the national credit, and  
to prevent the new issues declining much be-  
low par.The Proposed Tax Upon Newspapers.—It is an interesting  
fact in connection with the Port Royal expedi-  
tion that its successes included the capture of  
a million dollars' worth of Sea Island cotton,  
the greater part of which has already arrived  
at the North. Now, it is very evident that while  
the expeditions to Hatteras Inlet and Port  
Royal, and those under Burnside and Butler,  
and all other such expeditions that may be  
despatched, are part of a grand system or-  
ganized to crush the rebellion, they will be of  
the greatest service in enabling us to obtain  
supplies of cotton, by which not only will they  
contribute materially towards defraying the ex-  
penses of the war, but place us in a position to  
keep the markets of England and France well  
supplied with that indispensable fibre that  
neither country will have sufficient provocation  
or excuse to try the experiment of breaking the  
blockade.There is no doubt that all along the coast and  
for many miles inland, from North Carolina to  
Matamoros, a hundred millions of dollars' worth  
of cotton might be rapidly fitted out with this  
view. There is every prospect of these expedi-  
tions doing more to uproot the rebellion than  
our armies on the Potomac and in the West; and  
there is this great advantage belonging to them,  
that, while restoring the Union flag over an ex-  
tensive belt of cotton country and so maintaining  
the prestige of the United States abroad, their  
commercial results will be such as we cannot  
overrate in importance. Both politically and  
financially, therefore, these expeditions promise  
to be of the highest value.A NEW OPERATIC SEASON.—This evening the  
combined forces of Grau and Maretzek begin a  
new operatic campaign at the Academy of  
Music. According to the present prospectus,  
New York and Brooklyn are to be blessed with  
the performances of this combined troupe on  
alternate nights for two weeks. Gottschalk,  
the great pianist, is held as a sort of reserve  
force, and, altogether, the coalition is a very  
strong one. There is no occasion to introduce  
Max Maretzek to the New York public; but, in  
response to the numerous inquiries of "Who is  
Grau?" we rejoice to be able to state that, after  
prolonged study and acute investigation, we  
have discovered that Grau is the person who  
devised the Prince of Wales Opera in Phila-  
delphia. In consequence of his connection  
with that affair Grau did not dare show himself  
during the Trent excitement, except in such  
out of the way places as Brooklyn, where he  
defeated the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher in single  
combat upon the momentous question  
whether the Brooklyn Academy was a church  
or an opera house. The artists engaged are all  
excellent, and the sale of tickets here has  
already been so great that we risk nothing in  
predicting a fashionable and successful season.CONSISTENCY OF THE TRIBUNE.—This highly  
moral journal assails Mr. Morgan for corrup-  
tion in thousands of dollars, in the matter of  
the purchase of ships for the navy. Why does  
it not only screen, but actively defend, the cor-  
ruption in Missouri, amounting to millions of  
dollars?

## The Duty on Tea.

IMPORTANT DECISION OF SECRETARY CHASE.

An important decision has just been rendered by Sec-  
retary Chase, which will set at rest the hopes of those im-  
porters of tea who hoped to obtain possession of their  
merchandise on shipboard before the passage of the Tariff  
act of December, on payment of the rate of duty levied  
by the August act. The following is the correspondence  
on the subject:—

LETTER FROM G. W. BENSON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1862.

To the Hon. SALMON P. CHASE, Secretary of the Treasury:—  
Sir—I have the honor to request to be informed whether  
tea on shipboard, bound to the United States, prior to  
August 5, 1861, are dutiable under the act of December  
24, 1861. Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,  
G. W. BENSON.

SECRETARY CHASE'S REPLY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Jan. 24, 1862.

Sir—I am in receipt of your letter of the 22d instant,  
"requesting to be informed whether tea on shipboard  
prior to December 24, 1861, are dutiable under the act of  
December 24, 1861."The act of December 24, 1861, increasing the duties on  
tea, coffee and sugar, makes no exception in favor of mer-  
chandise subject to duty under the act of August 5, 1861,  
on shipboard, bound to the United States, prior to the  
act of December; consequently all tea shipped after the  
passage of the act of August 5, is liable, on importation,  
to duty, at the rate of twenty cents per pound.

I am, very respectfully,

S. P. CHASE, Secretary of the Treasury.

G. W. BENSON, Esq., No. 39 South street, New York.

The following is a copy of the letter from Secretary  
Chase to Collector Barney. It has been procured on  
application at the Department in order to correct an  
erroneous statement, recently published:—

LETTER FROM SECRETARY CHASE TO COLLECTOR BARNEY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Jan. 17, 1862.

Sir—I have under consideration an appeal from your  
alleged decision that certain teas imported from Canton  
per bark Penguin by Messrs. A. L. Low & Brothers  
are dutiable under the act of December 24, 1861,  
the appellants claiming that said teas are entitled  
to entry free of duty under the provisions of the  
sixth section of the act of August 5, 1861. The twenty-  
third section of the act of March 2, 1861, exempts from  
duty tea, when imported direct from the country of pro-  
duction in American vessels, or in foreign vessels entitled  
to the same privileges as American vessels.The fifth section of the act of August 5, 1861, provides  
that all goods, wares and merchandise actually on ship-  
board, and bound to the United States at the date of the  
passage of this act, shall be subject to pay such duties as  
are provided by law before and at the time of the pas-  
sage of this act.Thus tea on shipboard, and bound to the United States  
on the 5th of August last, was entitled to entry on im-  
portation free of duty under the act of August 5, 1861.  
The act of December 24, 1861, provides that teas, from  
after the date of the passage of this act, in lieu of the  
duties heretofore imposed by law on articles heretofore  
mentioned, there shall be collected and paid the follow-  
ing duties and rates of duty, that is to say:—First, on all  
teas, on all teas, twenty cents per pound, and the ques-  
tion is now presented whether tea on shipboard on the  
5th of August last, and bound to the United States  
from the country of production, in a vessel of the United  
States, is entitled to the privilege accorded by the fifth  
section of the act of August 5, 1861, and entitled to entry  
free of duty. If the terms "in lieu of the duties hereto-  
fore imposed" had been omitted from the act of Decem-  
ber 24, all teas imported, without exception, would  
have been liable to the duties imposed by it. The  
insertion of these terms seems to indicate the inten-  
tion of the part of Congress to leave free the tea  
and coffee made free by the fifth section of the act of  
August 5, 1861, and thus avoid a discrimination between  
shipments already received and admitted from near, and  
shipments from remote localities, also on shipboard on  
the 5th of August last, but not yet arrived. I am of the  
opinion, therefore, the merchandise in question will be  
entitled to free entry, if it shall be shown to your satis-  
faction that the teas in this case were actually on ship-  
board and bound to the United States from the country  
of growth or production on or before the passage of the  
act of August 5, 1861. I am, very respectfully,

S. P. CHASE,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hiram Barney, Esq., Collector, &amp;c., New York.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—This evening the season  
will be inaugurated by the appearance of Miss Kellogg  
(first time) in the role of Lady Henrietta, in Flotow's  
beautiful Opera of "Martha." The occasion will derive  
additional interest from the resignation of the conduc-  
tor's baton, after a long absence and various mishaps by  
flood and field, by our old favorite, Mariusz. From the  
indications thus far there is every prospect of a crowded  
and brilliant house.